POOR ROBINS ANSVVER

TO

Mr. Thomas Danson

Author of the Late

FRIENDLY DEBATE BETWEEN

SATAN and SHERLOCKE:

As also of another Pamphlet since Publisshed; Pretended to be *A Defence of that* Debate against *POOR ROBIN* and others.

Bilem, Sæpe Jocum vestri movère Tumultus.

By the Author of POOR ROBIN'S *Weekly Intelligence.*

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POOR ROBIN'S *ANSWER*, &c.

Poſt varias Remoras, poſt tot Diſcrimina Præli,
——————Coram quem quæritis Adſum.

THis Conteſt between Mr. *Danſon* and my ſelf, will I preſume, appear ſo ſurprizing and unexpected; that as it happens in ſudden Frays, the firſt Quere generally ſtarted is like to be, *How fell you out?* To ſatisfie which, I muſt diſpence with the Vanity of telling the World; that (whatever *Fools* thinks, or *Knaves* Report) our Weekly Intelligence is not publiſhit ſolely to *Get Money*, (though that be an Ingredient which inſinuates in moſt undertakings) nor meerly to Entertain the *Idle* with Stories, and furniſh *Coffee-Houſes* with *Chat*, (though for *that* ſome ungrateful *Dons* are not a little oblig'd, for without ſuch Innocent Diverſions, 'tis a thouſand to one but their *Tongues* would be imploy'd to the *Hazard* of their *Ears*.) But beſides theſe, another main uſe of that *Sheet*, is for *Extravagants* to do *Pennance* in: To Expoſe Vice and *Ill Nature* to deſerv'd contempt, and if poſſible Laugh *Foppery* out of Countenance and Practice. Thus the Name of *POOR ROBIN* becomes more awful than an *Apparitors*, keeps the peace no leſs than the *Conſtable*, and makes thoſe tremble who bid defiance to the Stocks and the Whipping-Poſt, whilſt yet he diſpences his *Corrections* with ſo much *Mildneſs*, that onely the conſcious feel the Laſhes; and By-ſtanders could ſcarce take notice of their Chaſt zements, did not their own *Wincing* proclaim their perſonal Guilt, and ſummon a crowd to whoot at their Folly.

In which Predicament we muſt Rank Mr. *Danſon's* Printed Reſentments: For certainly, as never Man gave more *Cauſe* for a Satyrical Reflection, ſo none but his *Diſcreet ſelf* would ſince have taken the pains ſo amply to ſatisfie the World how well he deſerv'd it. Wiſe and good Men cannot but abhor that miſcheivous humour of teſty *Fencers* in Divinity, who like *Tavern Bullies* catch up whatever ſtands next, and convert it into a Weapon, or *New Medium*, (as our Author calls it) for carrying on a *Brangle*, which too oft is no leſs unneceſſary than unſeaſonable: the one but Milking an

He-Goat, whilst the other holds under a *Seive*; But for a Person of his pretended *Piety* and Gravity to abuse an *Eminent Minister*, by representing him *Dialoguing* with, and Preaching *Salvation* to the Devil: and by slanderous Imputations, *mangling* his words, and putting Innocent Expressions on the *Rack* of Malice. To Extort an *odious Meaning* which 'tis like his thoughts were never Guilty of, was such a Matchless piece of *Disingenuity*, that I could not but think't deserv'd to be expos'd in a Divertisement to the *Hiss* and Laughter of all the world.

As for the Merits of the cause, or *Original Controversie* I shall not meddle, for 'tis dangerous trampling in *Holy Ground*, unless our *Shoos* are first pluckt off. I mean, that Lightness Prejudice, Self-conceit and Opiniastry remov'd; wherein most Men are too apt to walk. And besides, 'tis the opinion of Wiser Men, that Mr. *Sherlock* has so *fully* Justifi'd his Principles, that his Book may serve as a sufficient Answer, not only to his Adversaries *first* Pamphlet, but the *latter* too (which pretends to be a Reply to it.) And even whatever else, *Indefatigable Impertinence* shall scribble for the *future* on this subject; if people will be but at the pains to consider and *compare* his Words with the others wild distorted Inferences, only give me leave to say; That I cannot think Mr. *Dawson*, for all his Clamours to be so much at odds with the *foul Fiend* as he pretends, for what can be more favourable and obliging, then when *p.* 3. of his *Defence*, He positively, and no less Blasphemously calls God, The Devils *Benefactor*, and abuses a sacred *Text* to countenance his madness. Had Mr. *S.* been Guilty of such an *Obnoxious* Expression, 'twould no doubt have afforded Tragical matter enough for Two or Three more *Unfriendly Debates*.

But waving the Body of the Pamphlet, I shall take notice only of what he has been pleas'd particularly to concern me in, *Viz.* The *Preface*; and this *forlorn Hope* comes fronted with Two of our Authors *Cardinal Vertues*, *Boasting* and *Falshood*; Telling the World that his late friendly Debate between *Satan* and Sherlock *had a very fair Reception both as to matter and MANNER, from all Ranks and Orders, Learned, Intelligent and Pious* ——Now how well the Illegitimate Brat was resented by Persons of the best *RANK*; Those that Mid-Wiv'd it into the World have some little reason not to forget: and 'tis notorious that most modest Men of his own

party

party, and Sentiments in the matter of the Controversie were so far dissatisfied with his scandalous manner of managing it, as generally to disown and condemn it.

But he proceeds. *It had a very foul Reception from others of Mr.* Sherlocks *perswasion, from whom as I will not so much detract as to deny them their share in the two first Characters; So* NOR, AS NOT *to deny them any in the last, &c.* You see the Gentleman has so blundered himself of late in Logick, that he has forgot his Grammar, and now cannot speak without Nonsense and Solecisms. There is a credible story of a certain *Quondam Fellow of Maudlins*, (you know the Stars name, no body Mr. *Danson*!) that since the memory of man undertook to teach some Gentlemen *Latine*; but having got an encouraging spill in [illegible]nish'd on he never came at them more; I fear our *A*[illegible] some such slippery trick by the *Learned Mayon* that [illegible] have taught him *English*.

After a very punctual Recital of a Divertisemement in our Intelligence, beginning ——— *There is lately publisht a Dialogue between a Monkey and his Looking Glass*, &c. This *Hero* of the Goosequill turns up his Muttacho's, and says ——— *He would scorn to take notice of that abuse, if he had not* Good Ground *to believe Mr.* Sherlock *as truly the Authour of it, as other Men are of the Weekly Advertisements*; sure he imagines *Poor Robin* to be of Kin to *Smectymnus*,

"*Where tuck'd under each Arm a double Gizzard,*
"*Five Faces lurk under a single Vizzard.*

I confess I have often with much satisfaction over-heard grave *Coxcombs* relate; that as *many* Authors Club to an Intelligence as there go Taylors to a *Man*; that we tug at the *Pen* like Slaves at the Oar a whole Bank together, and write in the posture that the *Swedes* give fire in, over one anothers heads; Nay some have been so impudent as to pretend intimate acquaintance with half a dozen of the Fraternity of *Robin-Writers*. But that any of the Tribe of *Levi* had any Finger in the Pye is a slander, that none but the Devils *Dialogue-maker* would suggest; for in truth the *Ground* of his *belief* (as well in this as greater matters) is like to prove nothing but *Fancy*, or rather *Malice*, which cares not what it reports, so he may cast an *Odium* upon Mr. *Sherlock*; If I should say I have *good ground to believe*; Mr. *Danson* addicted to *Gaming*, *Bowls*, *Nine pins*, &c.

No

No doubt he would cry out *calumny* and Slander; and yet I can ſhew where he was charged therewith in *Print* ſome Years ſince, and which he never diſprov'd that I know of; A far better ground for believing it, than any he can produce in this caſe: For I do *Solemnly* declare (and know no reaſon but my unbias'd *Teſtimony* may be Credited before his Envious *Surmiſes*) That the ſaid Divertiſement was neither Directly nor Indirectly *promoted* or *procured* by Mr. *Sherlocke* (whom to my knowledge I never *ſaw*, nor never had any Correſpondence with) nor by any from him, or on his behalf; But was diverted out of that Natural Antipathy and *contempt* I bear to ſuch a Ridiculous and *Abuſive* piece of Foppery as the *Title*, and Contrivance of that Pamphlet.

But now behold! The *Man of Syllogiſmes* comes furiouſly to Attaque our Divertiſement, and gravely Confounds it with a *Firſt*, *Second*, *Third*, and *Fourthly*; Beloved;

Firſt, It was not *Well Witted*; Though few that know Mr. *Danſon* can admit him for a Competent Judge; Yet let's hear his reaſon; *The Monkey*, (he ſays) *muſt needs be Satan*: &c. And why muſt it be ſo; Sr *Poſitive*? May it not ſerve as well to Emblematize your Worſhip? who being like thoſe *unlucky Animals*, of a medling Enterprizing humour, and having made abundance of ſtrange *Grimaces*, took them, when repreſented in your Crackt Imagination for a Picture of Mr. *Sherlock*; And ſo frighted with your own *hideous Reflection*, *Conjur'd* up a *pittiful Devil* to debate with Abſurdities, that had *no body* but *your ſelf* for their *Author*.

Secondly, He ſays, *It was not well worded, becauſe there is no reaſon the Arguments manag'd by Satan ſhould be ſtiled the Non-Conformiſts*; Yes Sir! Two or Three *ſmall* reaſons there are: *Firſt*, Becauſe what ever looks like an Argument is generally borrowed (not to ſay *ſtoln*) from the *Non Con's* Books; onely the railing abuſive part is intirely your own. *Secondly*, Your Satan declares himſelf to be a very *Preciſe* Devil; A *Conſtant and Attentive Hearer* at Conventicles, &c. *Thirdly*, Becauſe your ſelf ſecta'd very *fond*, it ſhould be thought ſo, making your Devils Common *Formula* of Uſhering in his Arguments to be thus A *Phanatick would preſs you*, p. 7. The *Calviniſts will object*, p. 16. *would J. O. ſay*, p. 30 *Would a Fanatick ſay*, p. 34. *Fanaticks think*, p. 38. &c.

In the next Lines Mr. *Danſon* grows *modeſt*, Diſclaims his having Im-

Improv'd the Art of Scolding, yet *acknowledges* he had found out an *unheard* of way to abuſe any Antagoniſt: Theſe are his words; — *The unheard of way to abuſe any Antagoniſt, diſcovered in the Friendly Debate, was not the Improvement of the 8th. Liberal Art which the Vulgar call ſcolding (for that may be heard every day at* Billingſgate) *but the choice of a Dialogiſt* —*That was the Novelty*; A Novelty indeed! and ſince we owe the diſcovery wholly to Mr. *Danſons* Ingenuity, I am content he ſhould have a *Patent* to Monopolize the Invention to Him and his Heirs; Nor is the Myſtery of Scolding ſo little beholding to him for its Improvement, as he baſhfully pretends; For as the Common Profeſſors of *Railing* have their Figures, and Peculiar Ornaments, though not ſo learnedly diſtinguiſht by the Names of *Sarcaſmus*, *Aſteiſmus*, *Micteriſmus*, *Antiphraſis*, *Charientiſmus*, or *Ironia*, yet have they their dry *Bobs*, their broad *flouts*, bitter *taunts*, their fleering *frumps*, and their privy *Nipps*; And at this Rhetorick Mr. *Danſon* is Excellent, as himſelf confeſſes, to make the Devil play upon Mr. *Sherlocke*. —As p. 22. *Now we are under the Roſe, I will tell you truely I believe all your talk of a Saviour is but a copy of your countenance*; p. 38. *I believe all Chriſts Revelations, and were I ſure none but Friends were within hearing, I would ſay that's more than you do*; p. 4. *None of your Clubb* (which it ſeems is a very *merry Clubb*, p. 43.) *care much for* Paul, *&c.* But above all, that figure is Superlatively fine, and wholly Novel in his Preface to The Defence, where he calls Mr. *Sherlock*——*Whore*.

Thirdly, He taxes the Divertiſement as Guilty of *calumny*, alledgeing there *is no hint of Bawdry in the words* Operam Dare ad Liberos procreandos, *they ſignifying no more than to have conjugal commerce*; I confeſs Commerce is a very pretty and appoſite term, that is, *To Truck Ware for Ware*; But why the Latine muſt be rendred *conjugal*, rather than any other private Commerce I am yet to learn; And indeed who could Imagine but our Author, or (which is all one) his *Devil* was not a little *Tickled* with ſome conceit, when he draggs in by Head and Ears ſuch a pittiful *ſhred* of Bumbaſt, where there is not the leaſt occaſion for't, but meerly for the *Latchery* of Latine, and then *cackles* over it thus—— *You ſee as old as I am I have not forgot all my Latine.*

He takes it ill, That the Divertiſer ſhould recommend him to a *Scotch Caſement*, which, he ſays, *Is a Pillory*.—— Seriouſly a Profound

found Commentator! but I warrant you he had never hit on't so luckily, had not Conscioufneſs of his own merits aſſiſted his *Gueſſing*: For not to mention their deſerts who not onely publiſh Pamphlets without *Licenſe*, but alſo abuſe the *Imprimatur* of Authority, as he does *Fr. Deb.* p. 28, and 49. 'tis certain that *Forgery* is a crime generally puniſhable by the *Wooden Ruff*, and how far guilty of that (at leaſt againſt conſcience and honeſty, though not within the *Statute*) Mr. *D.* is by *Miſrepreſenting* Mr. *Sh.* words and ſenſe, is obvious to every conſiderate Reader.

But I am farr from the *Malice* he charges me with, or wiſhing the leaſt Ill to his Perſon, and would advite him (as a Friend) to calm that *fiery, contentious* ſpirit, which hurries him into theſe Abſurdities; Not to ſuffer blind furious *Zeal* to conſume all his *Charity*; Nor think every man that diſſents from his Sentiments an *Atheiſt*, a *Mahumetan*, or *Subverter of the Goſpel*; and if he needs muſt be toſſing in Polemicks, to treat his Antagoniſts hereafter with the Candor of a *Scholar*, the Civility of a *Gentleman*, the Gravity of a *Miniſter*, and the Moderation of a *Chriſtian*; this I am ſure is wholſom Councel, but if he will neglect it, and proceed as he has begun, I would wiſh him to Imitate his Brother *R.* to betake himſelf to the Study of *Phyſick* in the *Galenical way*, with particular regard to the nature of *Hellebore* and its *Operation*, which may be of great uſe this *Spring* to a perſon of his complexion, and prevent the dire effects otherwiſe threatned in the *Dog-daies*.

Sed ——— Motos præſtat componere Fluctus.